

Minutes of the Farmers Institute Directors Meeting held at 7 pm on Monday, May 22nd 2023 at in the Youth Hall located at 3565 Watson Avenue.

Those present: Roger Painter - President, Roy Davies - Vice President, Robin Brett - Treasurer, Lynne Pohynayko, George Baird, Russell Dann, Jayne Shaw, and Gerry Giles - Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 with the acceptance of the agenda by consensus after the addition of Janitors, Duncan Dabbers Bingo, Social Media and General Membership Meeting being added under New Business.

Motion

to accept the April 17, 2023 minutes with the correction of showing Jayne Shaw as being present at that meeting. CARRIED

Business from the Director's Minutes:

- Septic system pump out - to be arranged this coming week
- result of letter from Turnham Woodland - Barristers & Solicitors (Dumont Estate) - will not take place until the fall. Roger Painter to be notified.

President's Report - Roger reported the compressor cover for the walk-in freezer has been installed. The recent work party focused mainly on cleaning up around the new addition to make sure it was safe and free of construction debris. He reiterated that no changes will be made to the Shaw/Telus system until after we see what happens with the network or mesh system installed by Teky and how it functions at the Fair. The fire extinguishers have all been updated for the year: they are now up to date. Work has begun on replacing the rotten posts at the Baird Barn to ensure the roof is secure. Roger expressed his gratitude to the following volunteers who came out and help with the work party: Jim Southwell, Keith Mandel, Bob Baugh Allen, Al Garside, Dave Bilkoski, Russell Dann, June Painter, Roger Painter, Robin Brett and Gerry Giles.

Treasurer's Report - Robin said at the end of April there are some timing issues affecting the April 2023 Financial Statements. For instance, catering shows a deficit of almost \$1600 because we have much of the food purchased sitting in the freezer for an event that was billed in May. Even after the May event, we still have enough ribs to use for the Fair or to sell to the South Cowichan Seniors for their luncheon program. The meat pie program was doing well after our last sale in April, and we still have some product for sale.

As usual the Institute portion of the Income Statement shows a loss, largely related to insurance costs. This will continue until we get the grant from the CVRD that covers our insurance costs and then you will see that loss turn around as well.

We are still waiting on the GST rebate while they process our T2. At the end of April, we were still waiting on the last portion of the federal grant for the new addition. We have received an acknowledgement that they received our final report, so things are moving forward on their end.

We received grants in May from BC Fairs to be used for specific fair expenses like entertainment and advertising and one for technical upgrades to Wi-Fi, computers and

gate functions for the Fair. Those funds will be isolated in separate savings accounts for the time being, so they are only used for the intended purposes. In this way we can keep track of exactly what we have for general operations in the chequing account.

Robin said she will also be looking for more quotes for a new sink counter in the bar area to replace one that is in poor condition. We have the new sink and taps, but the quotes received for the counter were too high or did not come through as planned.

Motion

the treasurer's report be accepted as given.

CARRIED

Secretary's Report - Gerry again thanked Roger for continuing to help with rentals while she recovered from her knee replacement surgery. She said it was a huge relief not to have to struggle with renters and stairs during her convalescence. She reported she is now back to about 90% of normal, whatever normal is, and is able to manage most of the rental requirements on her own but will also call on Roger from time to time.

She is pleased to report, we were successful with our federal technology grant application, which means we will be able to improve our WiFi, computer, square and program capability. We have this \$36+ thousand dollars in our bank account so this work can now take place and it should be installed in time for the Fair. We also successfully applied for and received \$6400 from the Province for the Fair this year and those funds are on hand can be spent on entertainment, promotions and a variety of other items.

The storage room and walk in freezer are more of a bonus than she thought they would be. It is so nice to have a place to store tables and chairs and not to have them located in and around the hall. The walk in freezer is fantastic. It is great to just have to go to it for supplies rather than to have to go to the basement when something is needed. She has removed items from three of the freezers downstairs and unplugged those three... just two more freezers downstairs to go. Then the decision about whether or not to sell those freezers can be made.

Rentals have returned to normal with both April and May being busy months. The end of April had back to back weekend event in the hall and while the NDP Drag Ball at the Cobble Hill Hall was cancelled due to lack of ticket sales (April 29) the May 4, 5, 6 and 7 events more than made up for that event. All of the May weekend events were well attended and the users were very respectful of the hall.

The Vintage Car Club of Canada event on May 13th was a very well attended and well run event with the Farmers Institute catering to 154 of the VCCC member along with approximately 20 volunteers who helped stage the event. The meal consisted of spareribs, rice, coleslaw and garlic toast with vanilla ice cream and a lemon drop for dessert. The seniors lunch crew cooked the meal and Roy came in on Saturday and worked with them to help serve.

The Vintage Car Club folks were very pleased with the meal and overall service provided and have rebooked to come again in September.

The Mill Bay Flower Show is scheduled for June 2/3 and it is always a well attended event.

Fair Report - Roger - briefly reviewed the Fair minutes which had been distributed with the agenda for information purposes.

Rentals Report - Rental Calendar May & June were briefly reviewed.

Maintenance Report - most had been covered under the President's report however it was reported that a new leaf blower and lawn mower had been purchased and the mower will be delivered this week. Also, the Capital List will be reviewed and items on it will be assigned a priority for future reference.

New Business:

Janitor - Robin to lead the process of hiring a new janitor or janitor service company.

Duncan Dabbers Bingo - Jayne Shaw to represent the Shawnigan Cobble Hill Farmers Institute and Agricultural Society for the 2023/24 year.

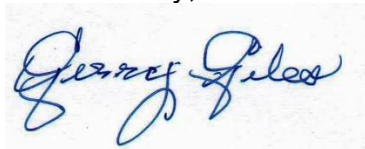
Social Media - to be reviewed at the end of August 2023. In the meantime, Gerry to speak to Brenda about keeping the posts more in line with our image and posting with those who support the FI or the Fair.

Next Directors meeting - Monday, June 19, 2023

Membership meeting - Monday, June 26th 2023

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gerry Giles", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Gerry Giles, Secretary